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## BOOK REVIEWS.

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CANTILLON, *Essai sur le Commerce*. Reprinted for Harvard University. Boston: Geo. H. Ellis. 12mo., pp. 436.

This is the first of the Harvard reprints from the less accessible portions of economic literature. A happier choice could hardly have been made of a volume to inaugurate this series than Cantillon's *Essai sur la Nature du Commerce en Général*. First published in 1755, and republished once within the same year and again in 1756, the book, in spite of its undoubted merits, early became one of the most neglected and, later, one of the scarcest of economic works. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the work was known, otherwise than by title, to more than a score of English-speaking economists before attention was called to its importance, in a strain of somewhat exaggerated praise, by Jevons' remarkable article in the *Contemporary* for 1881. Its neglect was probably due to certain peculiarities of literary style, which make its terse paragraphs far from easy reading even at the present day, and to the dimming splendor of Adam Smith's great work. But it was inevitable that, under the influence of the deepened interest in the historical development of economic thought, the *Essai* would sooner or later be exhumed and made accessible to economic students. It is a matter for congratulation that the reproduction of this rare and valuable treatise, written in a foreign tongue, should have been undertaken by an American university in the interest of general scholarship. We welcome it.

The present reprint is from the original edition of 1755, and the typographical execution of the work is excellent. Though not a *fac-simile*, the attempt has been successfully made, by adhering to the old pagination, line for line, and by using a type which exhibits many of the peculiar qualities of the eighteenth century duodecimo, of reproducing in the new edition the most distinctive characteristics of the old.

ADOLPH C. MILLER.